

**'UNCLE JOSH' AT HOME**

Where the Proprietor of the Old Homestead Lives.

SOON TO LEAVE THE STAGE

Tells How His Play Came Into Existence.

**THE RESULT OF DEVELOPMENT**

Originally a Short Skit Picturing the

Characteristics of Some of His Neighbors.

BY WILLIAM E. CURTIS.

Special Correspondence of The Star and the Chicago

KEENE, N. H., July 28, 1907.

Six miles below Keene is the quiet little

village of Swanzy, with a couple of factories

at which buckets and butter and egg

boxes are made. It is a cluster of old-

fashioned houses with two or three stores,

a couple of churches, a school house, a

blacksmith shop and a general mill which is

turned by the waters of a roaring brook.

Millions of people have seen Swanzy and

are personally acquainted with some of its

most interesting inhabitants, for the village

is the scene of "The Old Homestead," which

has been played almost as many times as

"Uncle Tom's Cabin," and Joshua Whit-

comb and the other characters are taken

bodily from its streets and farms. Some

years ago Denman Thompson brought his

company to Keene, where he gave a per-

formance in the theater and invited the

entire population of the township of Swan-

zy. He brought them up and took them

back to their homes, just as they were in a

special train. They filled the body of the

house and saw themselves as others see

them, which is a very novel thing. Mr.

Thompson's townspeople were very quick to

recognize local scenes and local characters

and have been talking about it ever since.

**Denman Thompson's Home.**

While Mr. Thompson was not born in

Swanzy, his parents were, and he spent

his childhood and early manhood here; and

when he got money enough to buy a house

the genuine old homestead and has since

spent his summers here. He has a farm

of about 100 acres and a large, comfortable

frame house painted green with white trim-

ings in the midst of handsome grounds

that are ornamented with iron, deer and

dogs, and dancing girls, and an iron col-

ored boy stands at the gatepost to hold the

horses of visitors. The barn makes the

house and is quite as pretentious and com-

fortable. Mr. Thompson is so careful of

"them sters" and his Jersey cows and

calves and colts that he has wire fences in

the windows of his stables and protects

them from the sun with pink awnings. He

has a hothouse and a conservatory in which

he propagates garden plants and early

vegetables and raises rare flowers. He is

a practical farmer and the neighbors say

that he looks and acts just as if he were in a

meadow and the barnyard as he does on

the stage. He needs no make-up. He is

"Uncle Josh" all the time. But he is not

a continuous performance. At present he

does most of his labor in a rocking chair

on the porch or driving around through the

country behind a large old-fashioned sleigh

slipping with the farmers and interrupting

them in their work. It is unnecessary to

say that they are always glad to be in-

terrupted. He knows every man, woman

and child in the township and they call

him "Uncle Josh."

Mr. Charles Thompson, his son and busi-

ness manager, lives with him and sees

that the wheels go round. Mrs. Kilpatrick

and Mrs. McFarland, his daughters, who

appear in the comedies, have handsome

places in the neighborhood.

**A Genial Old Gentleman.**

I found him sitting on the porch of his

daughter's cottage on the shores of Swan-

zy lake, a couple of miles from his own

home. He says it was Swanzy pond when

he was a boy and used to go fishing and

swimming there, but they call it a lake in

order to increase the price of property in

the neighborhood.

He is a genial old gentleman, as Uncle

Josh Whitcomb was as well as he has

himself. He is nearly 70 years old, but he

has the look of a man who has been

celebrated his seventy-fourth birthday. He

is beginning to take life easy. Few men

have earned a reputation as well as he.

Few men have given so many millions of

people pleasure. There is scarcely a per-

son in the township who has not been

tended the theater that has not seen "The

Old Homestead" at least once, and no play

has ever exercised a more healthful and

widespread influence upon the public than

that homely but beautiful paraphrase of

life at Swanzy.

"I guess I must have played 'Uncle

# After-inven- tory Clear-up in Men's Clothing!

This morning, with the opening of the doors, the rush began, and it has been one of the busiest Fridays in the history of the store. For this sale is no ordinary sale—the finest quality suits in the house are being sacrificed—lines seldom placed in a sale.

Throughout the higher priced and finest lines of Men's Suits we find that we have over 300 suits too many for this time of the year—so out they are to go regardless of what we lose by the operation. It's a splendid chance to secure the best clothing in the world at nearly half price!

From all the \$27.50, \$25, \$22.50 and \$20 Suits—absolutely every one in the store to choose from except plain blues and plain blacks—you can pick the suit that you fancy and it is yours by paying **\$14.75**

Both 2-piece and 3-piece Suits; many in the weights that can be worn through the fall as well as at present; all sizes for men of all builds from 34 to 50.

**All the High-grade Trousers Going.**

The entire stock of Outing and Dress Trousers is on the list to go at these reductions:

ALL THE TROUSERS NOW... \$2.75  
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50 PAIRS \$2.50 AND 43 TROUSERS (1 AND 2 OF A KIND), IN BROKEN  
SIZES, ALL NOW AT \$1.00  
50 PAIRS YOUNG MEN'S FINE WHITE DUCK TROUSERS; SIZES 14, 15 AND  
16 YEARS; SLIGHTLY MUDDLED; ALL \$1.50 VALUE... 30c

**Additional Clearance Items.**

One Fine Quality White Flannel Coat, size 34; sold for \$10; special at... **\$2.50**

Lot of \$1 and \$1.50 Wash Vests; sizes 33 to 38; many styles; reduced to... **50c**

Lot of High-grade Wash Vests that sold for \$2 and \$2.50; sizes 34 to 40; now at... **\$1.19**

Men's Light-weight Striped Office Coats that sell at 50c; now at... **39c**

Lot of 5 Stylish English Walking Suits; imported gray worsteds; sold at \$25; sizes 37 and 38... **\$11.75**

## A Great Millinery Special.

Tomorrow, for the one day's selling, we shall offer a beautiful collection of about four dozen Women's Stylishly Trimmed and Very Handsome Hats, in all the smartest effects for late summer and early fall wear. These hats are all one-of-a-style patterns, and the selling price regularly has been \$3.98 and 98c

## Straw Hat Clearance.

ALL MEN'S STRAW HATS, in every style, no matter how high priced, now... **98c**

ALL CHILDREN'S STRAW HATS, in every style, no matter how high priced, now... **98c**

ALL BOYS' STRAW HATS, none of which sold under \$1, to be closed out at... **50c**

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ALL CHILDREN'S STRAW HATS, in every style, no matter how high priced, now... **98c**

Close at 5 O'Clock Daily.  
Close at 6 O'Clock on Saturdays.

**Eclipse**  
513-515-517 Seventh Street N. W.  
WHERE YOU CAN HAVE IT CHARGED.

## Women's Summer Wear.

LOT OF HANDSOME MARQUEE Shirt Waist Suits, in white India linens; beautiful new styles; superbly designed and trimmed; very stylish; sold at \$5 and \$6; for clearance tomorrow... **\$1.98**

LOT OF WOMEN'S BATHING SUITS, in the most desirable materials; nicely braided and up to date. The selling price is \$5... **\$1.98**

LOT OF WOMEN'S FINE WHITE India Lawn Washable Skirts; embroidered and pleated; have never sold under \$5; for quick clearance... **\$1.29**

LOT OF FINELY TAILORED WASH skirts, in best linen, cotton cloth and linen; the value is positively \$5; for quick selling... **\$1.98**

LOT OF CHINA SILK WAISTS; beautifully embroidered fronts; both black and white; sold at \$3.98; a... **\$1.69**

LOT OF WHITE IRISH LINEN Suits; coat elaborately trimmed with braid and edged with... **\$12.50**

LOT OF VERY STYLISH WHITE Suits; very desirable and up to date; sold at \$6.98; for a quick sale tomorrow... **\$1.98**

LOT OF COAT SUITS IN FINEST white linens; pleated skirts with tailor-stitched bands; double and single breasted; sold at \$10; for a quick clearance... **\$4.98**

LOT OF FINEST WHITE AND Cream Serge, Panama, Brillantine and Voile Skirts; splendidly tailored and very stylish; sold up to \$15; for clearance... **\$4.98**

LOT OF FINE WHITE LINEN COAT Suits that sell regularly at \$12.98; new and very stylish; now to be closed out at... **\$6.98**

LOT OF VERY STYLISH and Handsome White India Linen Princess Suits, elaborately trimmed with lace in beautiful designs; girly effect of lace; sold at \$10; for clearance... **\$4.98**

LOT OF WOMEN'S STYLISH TAFETA Silk Jumper Suits; brown, navy, black and garnet; have always sold at \$16.00; to be closed out at... **\$10.98**

LOT OF MEN'S HIGH-GRADE Underwear in fine white lace, Otis balbriggan, mesh, etc.; pink and blue; mostly all sizes; the selling price has been 75c... **39c**

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